

Robert Ashton House (Carey House)
North side of Road 418, approximately .2 mile
west of intersection with Route 2
Port Penn Vicinity
St. Georges Hundred
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-240

HABS
DEL,
2-POPEN.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

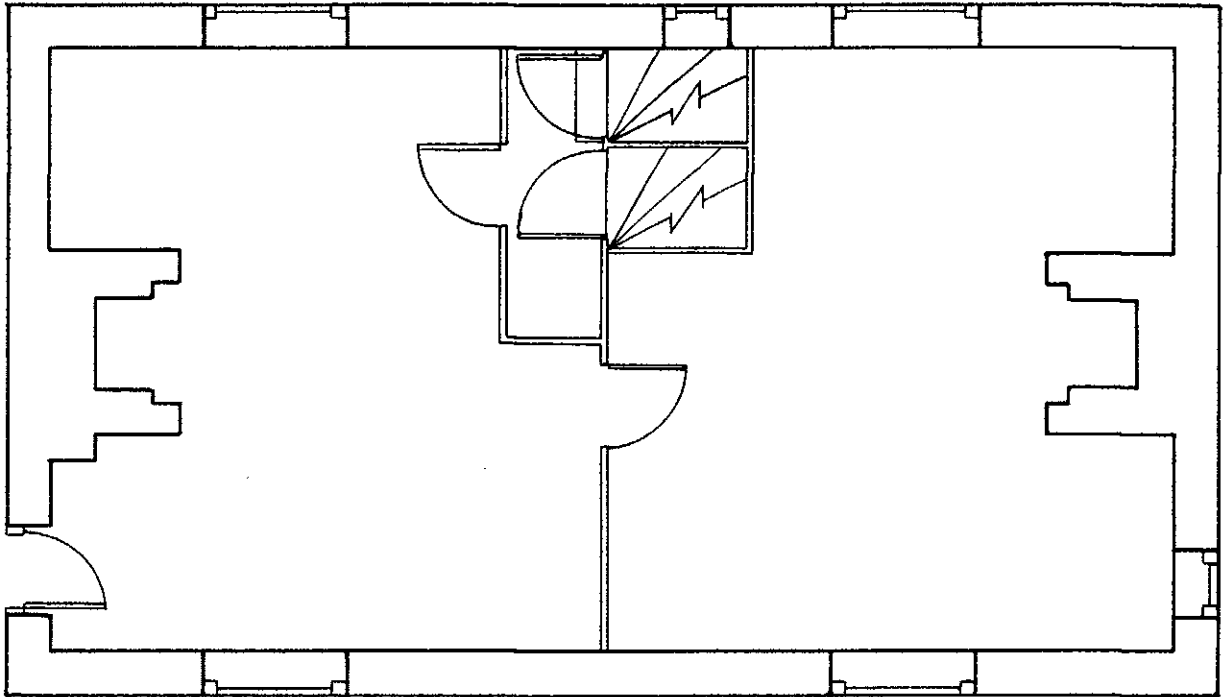
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

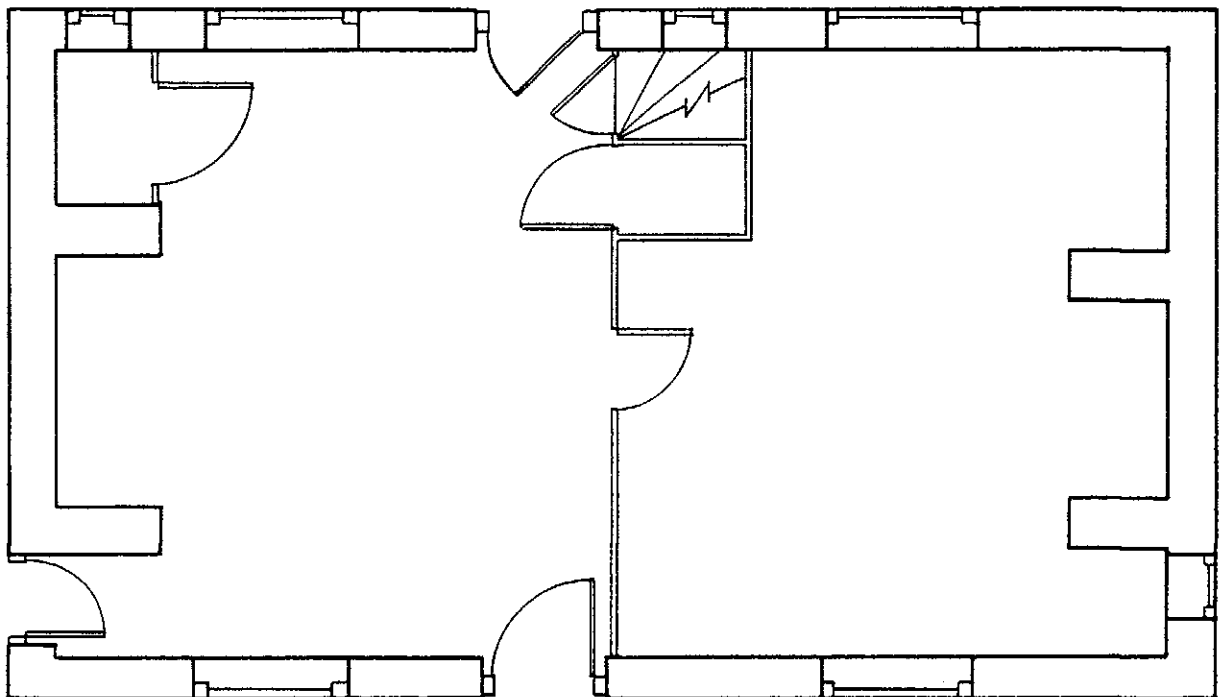
HABS
DEL.
2-POPEN.V.
1-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Delaware	COUNTY New Castle	TOWN OR VICINITY St. Georges Hundred Port Penn vic.
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Robert Ashton House (National Register Nomination)		HABS NO. DE-240
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Carey House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) North side of Road 418, approximately .2 mile west of intersection with Route 2		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1700 (construction; National Register documentation)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Robert Ashton (client)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Ashton House is the oldest documented dwelling extant in Delaware. Commissioned by Robert Ashton (a cousin of William Penn), the house retains elements of original trim and the configuration of its original plan. Most importantly, the earliest section contains evidence of an earlier frame building known to have existed on the site.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick (glazed header flemish bond south and east elevations, English bond north and west elevations); interior partitions framed with vertically placed beaded plank; common rafter roof frame.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See attached sheets for configuration of original brick section floor plan; fieldnotes for present plan.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE See construction (above). Evidence for pent eaves on north and south elevations; original fenestration and window openings for casements in brick section; pilaster chimney stack; beveled brick watertable; belt course for flashing pent eaves; closet and stair closet window openings.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Much interior finish has been moved or removed. Still in the house are double-beaded board-and-batten doors hung on HL and strap hinges; hall closet converted to Federal period display cupboard; Federal mantels. Attic contains cyma molded vertical board walling and shadow painted stair.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Brick structure is addition to an earlier frame building demolished in the early 19th century at which time the interior of the brick section was extensively remodeled. Frame wing constructed over site of original structure and extended with a pantry/buttery ca. 1830-40.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good; tenant rental with goal of maintenance preservation.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places; Dean Nelson and Cara Wise Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, De. Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard L. Herman, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware	DATE 4/14/86	



Second
Floor (reconstructed plan)



First
Floor (reconstructed plan)



↑
N